

“How can I tell if my loved one is at-risk driving?”

One way is with an in-car assessment by a driver rehabilitation specialist or professional driving instructor.

Another is to complete the checklist below and to take action if indicated.

Driving Safety Concerns*

Check box

- ☐ Doesn’t obey stop signs, traffic lights or yield right-of-way
- ☐ Doesn’t obey other traffic signs (no left turn, no turn on red, etc.)
- ☐ Drives too slowly—usually well below the speed limit
- ☐ Gets lost routinely—is taking 2 hours to get to the hairdresser or home
- ☐ Drives aggressively
- ☐ Stops inappropriately
- ☐ Doesn’t pay attention to other vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians, road hazards
- ☐ Doesn’t stay in lane when turning and driving straight
- ☐ Driver’s spouse, companion, driver’s friends, or passengers repeatedly comment about close calls, near misses, driver not seeing other vehicles or unsafe driving
- ☐ Has been involved in multiple fender benders
- ☐ Has been ticketed for moving violations
- ☐ Gets honked at often

*From: LePore, P. R. *When You are Concerned—A handbook for families, friends and caregivers worried about the safety of an aging driver.* Albany: New York State Office for the Aging, p 21.

Help Network Members

- AAA Western & Central New York
- AARP Driver Safety Program
- Alzheimer’s Association of Western New York
- Amherst Town Court
- Buffalo Driving Schools, Inc.
- Care Connection
- Cheektowaga Senior Services
- Center for Transportation Injury Research
- City of Buffalo Police Dept., Accident Investigation Unit
- Community Concern
- Coordinated Care Management Corporation
- Driver Rehabilitation Services, DeGraff Memorial Hospital, Kaleida Health
- Erie County Auto Bureau
- Erie County Department of Health
- Erie County Department of Senior Services
- Erie County Medical Center, Driver Evaluation Program, Occupational Therapy Department
- Erie County Office for the Disabled
- Erie County Sheriff’s Office, Traffic Bureau
- Erie County STOP DWI
- Erie County Traffic Safety Office
- Going Places Van, Erie County Dept. of Senior Services
- Kaleida Health, Gates Circle Health Group, Geriatric Ambulatory Program
- Medical Society, County of Erie
- Motor Vehicle Accident Clinic, Department of Psychology, University at Buffalo
- New York State Office for the Aging
- New York State Dept. of Motor Vehicles, Buffalo District, Testing & Investigations Unit
- North Buffalo Community Center
- Phillip LePore, Consultant
- Schofield Residence
- Senior Outreach Services (Amherst, Clarence, Newstead)
- South Buffalo Community Association
- Southtowns Rural Preservation Co., Inc.
- Weinberg Campus
- West Seneca Police

Erie County’s
Older Driver
Family
Assistance
Help Network



For families, friends,
and caregivers
concerned about an
aging loved one who is
driving “at-risk”

“We’re here to help.”

(716) 858-8526



Joel A. Giambra
County Executive

Pamela M. Krawczyk
Commissioner

Help Network



Buffalo, New York

Family, friends & caregivers often know when aging loved ones are driving “at-risk”.

You want to protect the driver, but often don’t know what to do or where to turn for help.

Making it easy for you to address impaired, at-risk & unsafe situations can mean

- Fewer crashes for aging drivers
- Safer roads
- Less criticism for those older drivers who still drive safely

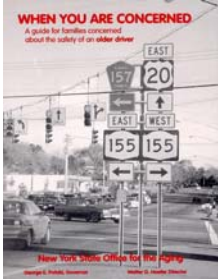
“It is not a driver’s age which is of concern, but how that driver functions on the road.”

The Help Network

- Supplies information about available services to assist caregivers
- Addresses challenging family situations involving at-risk older drivers
- Works to identify and remove barriers to accessing services
- Advocates for public policy changes

**A Guide is Available for
Concerned Caregivers**

When You Are Concerned - A guide for families concerned about the safety of an older driver was published by the New York State Office for the Aging. It is based on the successful actions of people who had assisted an at-risk older driver to drive safely or helped the driver retire from driving.



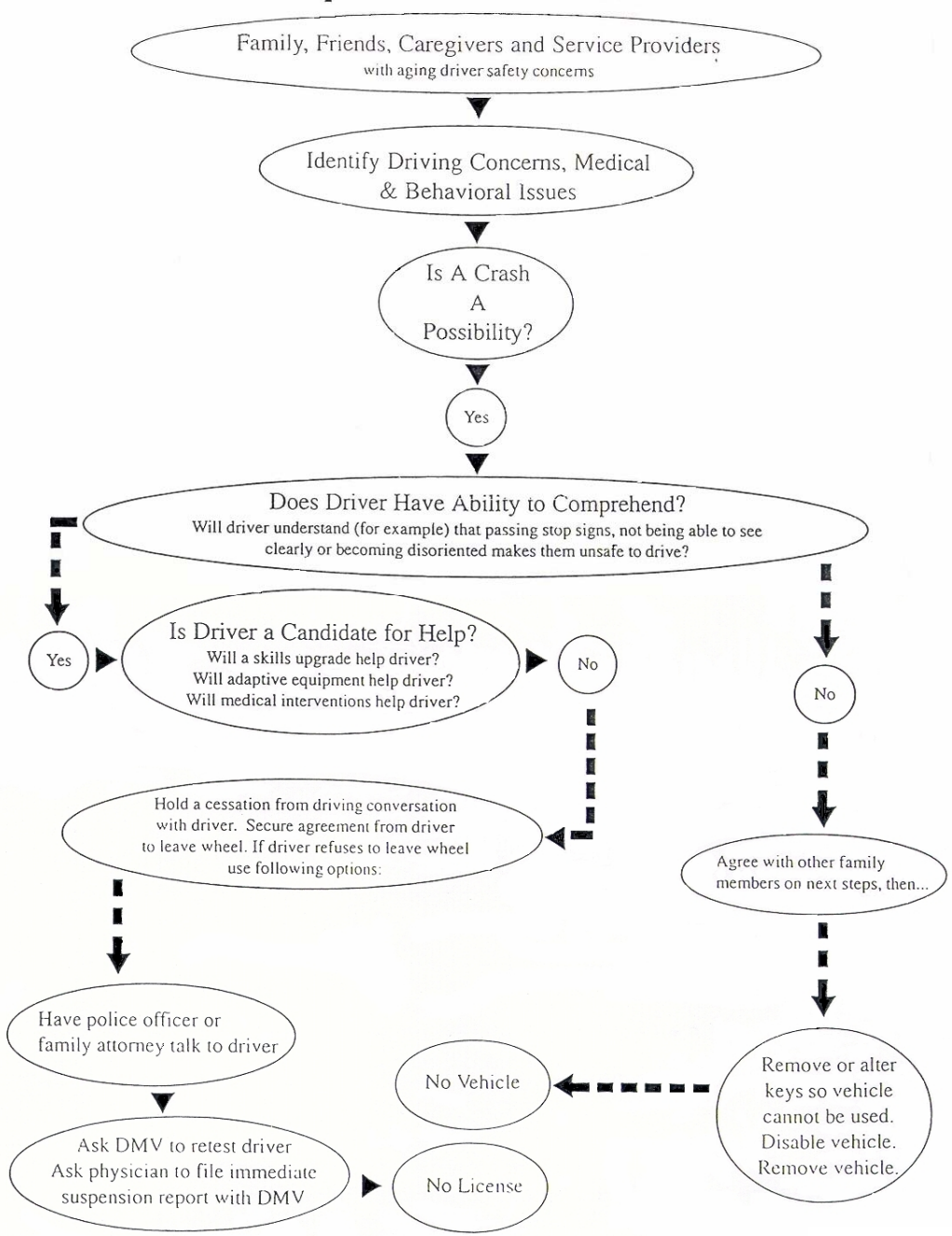
For a free copy, contact The New York State Office for the Aging, 1 (800) 342-9871, or the Erie County Department of Senior Services, (716) 858-8526. On the Internet, it is available at: www.aging.state.ny.us. Follow the link to "Families & Caregivers" information.

***Call (716) 858-8526 for information
and assistance from the members of
Erie County's Older Driver Family
Assistance Help Network***

Often family and friends wait a year or more knowing there are problems with unsafe driving, putting lives at risk. However, assistance is available from a number of different sources.

The flowchart at the right indicates some courses of action a family might take.

Family Action Flow Chart



P. R. LePore, 2002

There are Options

The Help Network helps caring people locate:

- Information and Assistance
- Driver Evaluation or Rehabilitation Programs
- Transportation Options
- Support Groups
- And much more...

Calls are confidential, and we assist you with your individual situation. Phone us at 858-8526.

***"Caring people do address
driving concerns"***

**Erie County's Older Driver
Family Assistance
Help Network**

Phone: (716) 858-8526
Fax: (716) 858-7259

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